

(c) whether it is also a fact that even one pillar that was completed has now got tilted to greater extent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Well, foundation for six pillars have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Leasing out of Vacant Railway Land

†368. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any plan to lease out some of vacant pieces of railway land lying near certain railway stations for construction of hotels or guest houses; and

(b) if so, the details of the procedures and parameters being adopted by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railway is in process of identifying surplus land at 100 sites. These will be allotted for Public Private Partnership (PPP) on open tender basis through two packet bidding systems consisting of technical and financial bid.

Corruption in Railway Reservation

†369. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAI LWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mostly the long distance passengers are troubled by the corruption prevalent in railway reservation and the wayward, T. T. Es in trains;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to provide relief to the passengers from the said problems; and

(c) the details of the said measures and the process of implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Some cases have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted in and around reservation offices and in trains in association with the Security and Vigilance departments to prevent any malpractices. These checks are also monitored by officers at various levels. Staff, if found indulging in corrupt practices are taken up as per relevant rules. The non-railway men are dealt with as per provisions of the law. In addition, suitable publicity campaign is launched from time to time educating the public to contact the concerned authorities in case of possible malpractices.

Doubling of Railway Tracks in Kerala

370. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling of railway track in various sections of Kerala is yet to be completed;

(b) if so, the details including total length of railway track, length of sections having double track, length of sections in which double track works is on, details of sections in which doubling of track as yet to be sanctioned and total grant sanctioned for doubling of railway track in Kerala, as on today, category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to complete the track between Ernakulam- -Kottayam-Kayamkulam-Allapey-Kayamkulam sections as today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details as on 01.4.2006 are as under:-

i. Total length of railway track:—

Broad Gauge-933 Kms, Meter Gauge-117 Kms

ii. Length of sections having double track:- 558.62 Kms